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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/735,141	12/12/2000	James J. Fitzgibbon	70333	5535

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EXAMINER

ZIMMERMAN, BRIAN A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2635

DATE MAILED: 08/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/735,141

Applicant(s)

FITZGIBBON ET AL.

Examiner

Brian A. Zimmerman

Art Unit

2635

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 November 2004.
2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

EXAMINER'S RESPONSE

Status of Application

In response to the applicant's amendment received on 11/10/04. The examiner has considered the new presentation of claims and applicant arguments in view of the disclosure and the present state of the prior art. And it is the examiner's position that claims 1-11 are unpatentable for the reasons set forth in this office action:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

1. Claims 1,2,5,7-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsu (6041410) and Flick (6140939).

Hsu teaches a garage door operating system that includes a fingerprint-communicating unit 14 which includes a fingerprint sensor 16, see figures 2 and 3. The communication unit also includes a transmitter 22 that sends a signal to the barrier operator where it is received and authenticated to open the garage door. Hsu does not expressly show the fingerprint comparison occurring at the operator, however in an analogous art, Flock teaches that either having the authentication comparison occur at the communicating unit or at the barrier operator are both equivalent methods with various pros and cons associated with each. See figures 5 and 6. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of

Art Unit: 2635

ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the fingerprint authorization occur at the barrier operator as suggested by Flock since it would reduce the processing power necessary in the fingerprint communication unit.

2. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsu and Flick as applied to claims 1 and 2 above, and further in view of Nicholls.

Hsu-Flick does not teach the use of electroluminescent fingerprint sensors. Nicholls teaches of an electroluminescent fingerprint sensor such as TactileSense™ by Who?Vison™ as an improvement over other common fingerprint sensors. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to substitute Hsu's optical fingerprint sensor for Nicholls electroluminescent fingerprint sensor since Nicholls discloses an advantage of electroluminescent fingerprint sensors over existing fingerprint sensors, such as the immunity to the 'dry finger problem' that existed in fingerprint sensing technologies at the time of invention (Nicholls, pp 5). Who?Vison™ also suggests the integration of such sensors into physical access control devices ("xlvision.com/spinoffs").

3. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsu and Flick as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Toyoda.

Hsu-Flick does not teach the use of Charged Coupled Devices (CCDs). Toyoda et al. teaches the use of CCDs to sense fingerprints in the production of identity authentication devices (Fig. 1). It would have been obvious to one skilled

Art Unit: 2635

in the art at the time of invention to substitute Hsu's optical fingerprint sensor for Toyoda et al's identity authentication device using a CCD since Toyoda et al suggest that his device be used to manage entrance and exit of individuals in restricted areas (Col 1, lines 38-40) and the use of Toyoda et al's identification device using CCD would provide an improved individual identification apparatus with a high recognition ability (Col 2, lines 38-42).

4. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsu and Flick as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Fitzgibbon (5751224).

Hsu-Flick does not expressly show the transmitter comprising a wall controller. In an analogous art, Fitzgibbon '224 shows the use of transmitter 34 that is a wall controller. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have mounted the Hsu-Flick transmitter on the wall of the garage since such would eliminate the need for the user to physically carry around the transmitter.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

Art Unit: 2635

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

5. Claim 6 is rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-12 of U.S. Patent No. 5751224 in view of Hsu and Flick.

The combination of Hsu, Flick and the '224 patent are discussed above, and the discussion above is hereby incorporated.


Applicant's arguments (11/10/04) with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian A. Zimmerman whose telephone number is 571-272-3059. The examiner can normally be reached on Off every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mike Horabik can be reached on 571-272-3068. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2635

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Brian A Zimmerman
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2635

BAZ